‘Loophole scheme’ gives big box stores big tax break

By Vera Hogan
vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

City of Fenton officials have taken steps to make sure their voices are heard on an issue that is costing municipalities across the state millions of dollars in lost tax revenue.

At a meeting earlier this month, the City Council voted unanimously to join in a brief of Amici Curiae (Latin for friend of the court) that has been submitted to the Michigan Supreme Court on behalf of 17 Michigan cities, including Fenton, one village, 12 townships and three counties (see sidebar).

See BIG BOX STORES on 6A

Chef's Showdown

By Sally Rummel
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Doug “Smitty” Smith was out and about shopping for his Fenton business, Smitty’s Exit 80 on Thursday when one of his cashiers called to tell him the exciting news.

The winning $4.4-million ticket for the Michigan Classic Lotto 47 had been sold at Smitty’s Exit 80 and has created a buzz around the Fenton gas station, located at North and Torrey roads.

Are you the $4.4-million winner?

Smitty’s Exit 80 sells a still unclaimed $4.4-million winning Michigan Lottery ticket

By Sally Rummel
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Doug “Smitty” Smith was out and about shopping for his Fenton business, Smitty’s Exit 80 on Thursday when one of his cashiers called to tell him the exciting news.

The winning $4.4-million ticket for the Michigan Classic Lotto 47 had been sold at his store.

See WINNER on 13A

New political philosophy

If a man wants to marry a man, OK. If a woman wants to marry a woman, OK. If they want to abort fetuses, OK. In three generations, there will be no more Democrats.

— Owner of Smitty’s Exit 80 in Fenton

Heading north?

You’ll notice the new 75 mph speed limit on some rural highways, including I-75 north from Bay City

By Sally Rummel
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Drivers traveling north on Michigan’s three main north-south highways will be able to legally drive 75 mph, beginning this month.

New 75 mph signs are being installed by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) on 600 miles of rural roadways, while another 900 miles of state highways will see top speeds rise to 65 mph from the current 55 mph.

The first freeways getting the 75 mph limits are I-75 between Bay City and Sault Ste. Marie, portions of US-127 between Lansing and Grayling and US-131 between Grand Rapids and Cadillac.

Trucks and buses will be able to travel 65 mph in those areas, according to MDOT.

See 75 MPH on 5A

None of the higher speeds are allowed in metropolitan areas or anywhere in southern Michigan, according to MDOT.

Text Your Hot Line

810-771-TEXT

What’s the difference between a baby and a fetus? A baby is what you call your child if you love it. A fetus is what you call your child before you kill it.

— Comment of the Week

The Republicans are the party that says government doesn’t work. And then they get elected and prove it.
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Beautiful setting at the end of a winding private road. Gorgeous home that is ready to move into boasting a finished walk out with 2nd kitchen, theater room and rec room for fun. In addition, it has a two story framed 30 x 32 barn for storing all your toys. Over 2000 sf of space makes this a great family home. $389,900
Call Pattrick Wely 810-750-2300

FENTON
9170 Bennett Lake
Spacious home on just over an acre. Gorgeous updated kitchen with granite, double oven, stainless appliances & breakfast nook. Master suite has its own balcony & huge master bath. Great home for a large family; 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, finished walkout with fireplace and kitchenette. 2 car attached garage plus pole barn! $349,900
Call Laura Pennington 248-245-5351

FENTON
12179 Rohn
Great Location And A Beautiful Parcel Of Land Come With This Unique Farmhouse! Barn And Out Buildings. Possible Splits Available. Mature Trees And Pond Site. If You So Desire, Have Your Horses, Chickens, Cows Or Goats And Your Own Garden! Currently Fenced. Lake Is Lp. But Natural Gas Is Now Available. $239,900
Call Sheila Rhodes 810-348-7357

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3288 Lyne
Well built house in beautiful neighborhood! Room to spread your wings! Offers newer kitchen, baths, roof, furnace and central air. Large fenced yard with mature trees. 3-4 bedrooms, 2½ baths and 1st floor laundry. All appliances included. Great location with easy access to I-69. $120,000
Call Sheila Rhodes 810-348-7357

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9439 Sunrise
Gorgeous new home built home in the coveted Davison school district with lower Richfield Township taxes! Well cared for home with gorgeous wood floors and private fenced in back yard. Quiet neighborhood but just off the main drag and close to absolutely everything, including shopping, restaurants and schools. $147,900
Call Kevin Usealman 810-965-6552

MUNDY TOWNSHIP
1124 Lakewiew Circle
2 bedroom ranch condo with cathedral ceiling and fireplace in living room. Open living/dining/kitchen area. Master bedroom with large walk in closet and full bath, additional 1/2 bath in hallway. First floor laundry, large garage with screened in sitting area and a full basement. Great location near Genesys hospital, I-75 & US 23. $95,000
Call Sheila Rhodes 810-348-7357

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19107 Hickory Ridge
Contemporary home on 10 heavily wooded acres. Home has gorgeous wood floors throughout the living area. Open floor plan is great for entertaining. 3 bedrooms and 2 full baths on main level with an additional bedroom in the walkout basement. 16x24 Pole barn and 2 car attached garage. $360,000
Call Patrik Welty 810-750-2300

WHITMORE LAKE
9246 Lake Pine
Beautifully Maintained 2 Unit Condo Overlooking Whitmore Lake. DNR Boat Launch Available Plus 3 Local Marinas. Features 3 Bedrooms, 2 Full Baths With Ceramic Flooring, Large Kitchen/Living/Dining Area And Spacious Family Room With Doorwall. 2 Car Attached Garage. $167,500
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Fenton native stars in Discovery Channel TV survival challenge airing this Sunday

By Sally Rummel
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282
Melissa Miller, 28, knew it was going to be tough to survive a three-week survival challenge in an unknown destination, stripped of all her clothing and every bare necessity, including shelter, food and water.

She just didn’t know exactly how tough it would be, or whether she would actually survive it.

The premise of “Naked and Afraid,” a popular Discovery Channel reality show in its seventh season, is that two complete strangers, usually a man and a woman, are stranded together in a very dangerous, desolate location.

They are without food or water, and they are completely naked. They’re provided with only one survival item each and a canvas bag that covers very little of their nudity. The competitors quickly get to know each other and their surroundings, hoping that their instincts, survival skills and “intestinal fortitude” will serve them well.

“About 50 percent make it and 50 percent don’t,” said Miller, who’s sworn to secrecy about the show’s location and ending. “These are all extreme survivalists or ex-military. Some have to be medically airlifted out.”

“(Above) Melissa Miller on “Insertion Day,” where she was put into her location to begin her three-week survival challenge. The camera crew was minimal, just one camera man, a sound man and producer. (Below) Miller is making a primitive fish funnel basket with palm branches and tree vines. She caught several fish and was also able to hunt to provide food for herself and her challenge partner.

“Being naked is just so hard. It was the number one thing that made the experience so difficult. It’s such a miserable experience.”

Melissa Miller
Fenton High School graduate

“Naked and Afraid,” an episode starring local woman Melissa Miller, airs this Sunday, May 21 at 9 p.m. on the Discovery Channel.

Miller will be hosting an Episode Viewing Party at 8:30 p.m. at Boston’s Restaurant & Sports Bar in Fenton.

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**Personal polls**

**T**hanks to Trump, politics is all any-one can talk about these days. It’s even creeping into our private lives.

For instance, when I came home the other day, my wife and three kids were gathered in the family room waiting for me.

“Who’s going on?” I asked.

“I think you’re going to want to sit for this,” the lovely yet formidable Marcia said, looking grave. “The new poll numbers are in.”

“Poll numbers? You mean on Trump?”

“No, on you.”

“You have a chart?”

“Yes. And I’m afraid your approval ratings are at an all-time low.”

“All-time low? You mean there have been other polls?”

“Monthly,” she said. “Since last year. And as you can see from this chart, last May you were …”

“Wait. You have a chart?”

“How else were we going to track your performance? Now as I was saying, last May you were trending pretty well in the performance? Now as I was saying, last May you were trending pretty well in the approval ratings. Now as I was saying, last May you were trending pretty well in the approval ratings.”

“I’m afraid your numbers are in.”

“Wait a second, the dog votes?”

“No, on you.”

“Poll numbers? You mean on Trump?”

“I think you’re going to want to sit for this.”

“Let’s just call them family faux pas.”

“I don’t have any; my grandparents are in my face, that’s fine.”

“My husband has one. I’m open to them, but I don’t have one.”

“I don’t have any; my wife does. If I get one, it will have to be something I’ll like for a long time.”

“I have a whole lot of them. I love them; they’re definitely a part of my lifestyle.”

“I have tattoos. It’s become part of my lifestyle.”

“I don’t have any; my grand-kids do. If they’re unobtrusive, and not in your face, that’s fine.”

“Such as?”

“Well, there was a 5-percent dip when you forgot to get me chocolates for Mother’s Day.”

“I apologized for that!”

“Sorry don’t feed the bulldog,” she said. “You also dropped another 3 percent when you forgot to get me chocolates for your Mother’s Day.”

“You said you were dieting!”

“And, finally, the dog was definitely not happy about you yelling at him for peeing in the hallway, which cost you another 3 points.”

“Wait a second, the dog votes?”

“Of course he does. He’s part of the family.”

“So do I get to have a poll about you guys?”

“You can, but I’d advise against it. I’m already hearing rumblings of the I-word.”

“Irritation?”

“Impeachment.”

“Things are worse than I thought. Where’s Things are worse than I thought. Where’s Things are worse than I thought. Where’s this?”

“One. ”

“You also dropped another 3 percent the kids. You dropped from a 60 percent performance? Now as I was saying, last May you were trending pretty well in the approval ratings.”

“Yes, and...
Canine playground closer to reality

Two-acre dog park is pet project of three municipalities

By Hannah Ball
hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

The Thompson Road Regional Dog Park committee is getting closer to its goal of raising enough money to complete phase one of the park after a fundraiser at Fenton Winery and Brewery May 18.

“I think it was successful,” said park organizer Nancy Draves. “Attendees enjoyed wine and beer tasting, and the company of their furry friends. Three people won gift baskets brought by Animal Health Clinic in a raffle.

The two-acre dog park, part of a 36-acre park is located on Thompson Road, just east of Wiggins Road. The overall park will include baseball diamonds and soccer fields. The Fenton Township Board of Trustees unanimously voted to approve the park in October 2015.

The event on Thursday featured music, wine and beer tasting, raffle prizes, and an opportunity to contribute and learn more about the park.

“It was fun. I think everyone enjoyed it. The music was great. It was so windy,” she said. There were some people from Grand Blanc at the event, that said they were excited about the Thompson Road Park because the one in grand Blanc charges a fee.

“We don’t charge. We’re going strictly on donations,” she said. Draves doesn’t know exactly how much they raised, but she said they got about 12 or 13 donations over $100, and that was just her amount. “It wasn’t bust by any means. And we’re getting the word out,” Draves said.

Raising enough money for phase one has taken some time, but organizers are determined. Organizer Amy Krug said the dog park committee figured out their initial budget for phase one is $25,000. Phase one includes the road, parking lot, fencing, a well, and a few other basics necessary for a park.

They’re currently focused on raising the last $8,000.

“The sooner that we have the money in hand, the sooner that we’re able to get started on things,” Krug said. “We want to have money in hand before we put out expenditures of this amount.”

Once enough money is raised for phase one, construction can start and the park will open. Phase two includes benches and other amenities.

To come up with the money, they’re looking for sponsors to donate to their 101 Donations campaign. On Wednesday, Krug said they needed about 100 more donations of $100 to meet their goal for the park.

“So often I know you go to event and the sponsorships are so large, but $100, that’s something that most people can manage, especially for something that will be significant,” Krug said.

Krug commended the work done by the three municipalities — Fenton Township, Fenton, and Linden — working to make the park a reality.

“We love that this is a tri-municipality thing,” she said. “We’re really proud of the effort, we’re really proud this is something we’ll be able to bring to our community.”

To donate, go to the dog park website at trpdogpark.com, or the Thompson Road Regional Dog Park Facebook page. Krug said donations are tax deductible.

People who wish to donate can also email Nancy Draves at draves.nancy@yahoo.com, or call her at 810-730-2830.

SUSPICIOUS MAN IN FENTON TOWNSHIP

On Monday, May 8, deputies with the Genesee County Sheriff’s Office responded to a suspicious situation in the 14000 block of Fenton Road in Fenton Township. An 8-year-old boy reported that an unknown older male walked by him while he was playing in his yard and asked him what his favorite kind of cake was. The child could not provide a physical description of the suspect and did not see any vehicles. This incident remains under investigation.
BIG BOX STORES

Continued from Front Page

The brief was prepared and filed by Steve Schulz’ law firm of Fahey Schulz Burzych Rhodes PLC, on May 29, Schulz is Fenton City’s attorney.

“There have been a series of cases over the years looking at the question of what should be the proper valuation for giant big box stores, large warehouse type stores,” said Schulz.

“There has been a real significant disagreement over how these properties should be valued,” he said. There have been cases in the Michigan Tax Tribunal and Court of Appeals. However, the Michigan Supreme Court has agreed to hear a case out of Escanaba, in Menard, Inc. v. City of Escanaba.

On May 26, the Michigan Court of Appeals issued Menard, Inc. v. Escanaba, 315 Mich App 512 (2016), reversing the opinion by the Michigan Tax Tribunal. Menard’s then filed to appeal to the Supreme Court.

“When a case like that gets to the Michigan Supreme Court, other interested parties are sometimes asked if they can file a ‘amicus brief’ in support of either side. The brief is what is starting to happen more and more frequently. The ‘Dark Store theory’ of property tax assessment is looking large over communities throughout the state,” said Schulz.

According to the Michigan Municipal League (MML), the Dark Store theory is “a tax loophole scheme” being used by big box retailers to lower the amount they pay in property taxes.

Those retailers, including Meijer, Lowe’s, Target, Kohl’s, Menards, IKEA, Walmart and The Home Depot across Michigan are arguing that the market value of their operating store should be based solely on the sales of similar size “comparable” properties that are vacant and abandoned, and may not even be located in Michigan.

For example, a fully operational store, like a new Super Walmart gets to pay the same property taxes as a closed, empty and “dark” Walmart down the street, and it’s what is starting to happen more and more frequently.

The MML claims the political appointees on the Michigan Tax Tribunal have upheld this “Dark Store theory” and cut property tax assessments in some cases by as much as 50 percent — impacting local revenues and subsequently local services, and making Michigan one of the only places in the country that assesses big box retail buildings in this manner. This “Dark Store theory” has resulted in a loss of millions of dollars in tax revenue for local governments across Michigan. This theory has a devastating effect in that it doesn’t just lose future revenue, but have to pay back the retailers for “over-taxing them” in prior years.

“The city of Fenton agreed to participate and all have agreed to share the cost of having the brief filed to support cities and township,” said Schultz. “By dividing up the costs among all the participating communities, Fenton’s share was just under $400. It was a very nominal cost when shared.”

Schulz said the Dark Store theory is having a very big impact in that what these large stores are paying in taxes has gone down dramatically.

“Fenton is affected by this dispute just like everyone else,” he said.

The big box stores in Fenton are paying significantly lower taxes now than they were over the past 10 years (see sidebar). This is due to the Dark Store theory or did property values go down during the last recession?”

“It’s a little bit of both,” Schultz said. “The great recession of 2008 saw property values generally declining in 2009, 2010 and 2011. On top of that, you saw this Dark Store theory reducing the values even further.”

On whether big box stores are required to go through the local Board of Review before approaching the Michigan Tax Tribunal for relief, Schulz said “it depends on the type of property.”

Schulz said this is going to take “a little bit of time” to get through the Michigan Supreme Court. The next step is for the Supreme Court to schedule oral arguments with Menards and Escanaba, and all the actual communities named in the brief.

“We (Fenton) are an invited guest to offer whatever input we have to the court,” he said. “Some months after that the Supreme Court will make a decision,” said Schulz.

Municipalities submitting brief to Supreme Court

Cities of: Orongo, Coldwater, Clinton, Fenton, Novi, East Lansing, Kentwood, Lowell, Norton Shores, Aurora Hills, Reed City, Grand Haven, Sturgis, Three Rivers, Harper Woods and Allen Park

Village of: Dundee

Charter townships of: Dewitt, Breitung, Clinton, Delta, Windsor, Grand Blanc, Meridian, Osthorne, Plainfield, Marquette and Orion

Township of: Hartland

Counties of: Dickinson, Eaton and Ingham
Experts say EMP attack could be on horizon

Could we survive with no electronics?

By Vera Hogan
vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

A few months ago, most Americans would have no thought it possible to fear something that could wipe out humanity.

Just turning on the TV news and seeing what’s going on in this country and the world today is enough to make a person wonder how safe we really are.

Dave Hodges, of The Common Sense Show (thecommonsenseshow.com), painted a very frightening picture of what would happen during and after an Electronic Magnetic Pulse (EMP) attack.

In the article called “What Happens During an EMP Attack. Can You survive?” published in September 2016, before the presidential election, Hodges details the dangers associated with an EMP attack.

He said top scientists and knowledgeable politicians tell us that it would cost the world alone up to $2 trillion in the first year. It could take four to 10 years to recover and would fatally impact 90 percent of the U.S. population, meaning widespread starvation and death.

So the moment of the EMP attack occurs, what will America look like a few seconds later?

Transportation

In one of the most dramatic effects, airplanes would fall from the skies. Untold thousands of people would immediately be plunged to their deaths.

Most automobiles will not work unless they have all pre-electrical parts. Even then, how long would gasoline be available? Many people on the various subways, would be trapped depending on the time that an electromagnetic pulse would be released.

Hospitals

America would see catastrophic conditions immediately take place in our hospitals and convalescent centers. Within a few days, old age homes would lack the resources and services of the staff to help preserve the lives of those who are virtually helpless.

Patients on the operating table would stand a good chance of not surviving. Hospital backup generating systems would be rendered unusable.

Food and water would become a scarce resource. People would not be able to get their life-sustaining medications and services, most of which are electrically powered.

What is an EMP?

An EMP is a burst of electromagnetic radiation sent flying through the atmosphere by a nuclear or thermonuclear explosion. This radiation gradually fizzles out, but electrical objects near the detonation can suffer effects ranging from simply being turned off to having their circuitry shorted out.

Communications

Your cell phones, your landlines, text, Twitter, emails and faxes will not work. Nearly all broadcast stations, especially television stations, would go off the air. Due to the high level of computerized automation, the equipment in most radio and television studios would be so completely destroyed that most commercial stations would be damaged beyond repair.

When America emerges from the event, the NSA police state surveillance grid would be permanently in place for the extreme martial law dictatorship that will follow.

Water Borne Diseases

The greatest threat to human survival in the aftermath of an EMP attack is the public’s availability to obtain clean drinking water. In 2010, when Haiti was hit by a major earthquake, which killed over 200,000 people, the misery did not stop with the survivors. Six weeks following the earthquake, Haiti announced its first cholera outbreak in over a century. The cholera outbreak went on to claim 8,000 more lives. This is what precisely would happen in most areas following an EMP attack.

See EMP on 14A

In the event of an electronic magnetic pulse attack, all electronics within a certain range would be disabled causing widespread problems.

Schools and Children

Another tragic development arising from an EMP attack would be the fate of schoolchildren geographically isolated from their parents who have already committed to work. Reuniting parents and their children would be next to impossible for the majority of Americans who have a 30-minute commute or more to work (20 miles).

If you were a teacher, how long would you stay on the job and ignore the welfare of your own family? Getting home and reuniting with family would be problematic.

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Magnetic Pulse (EMP) attack. all electronics within a certain range would be disabled causing widespread problems.

Schools and Children

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If you were a teacher, how long would you stay on the job and ignore the welfare of your own family? Getting home and reuniting with family will be problematic.
Kenneth Temrowski license suspended for one year

By Vera Hogan
vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Two separate complaints were filed in August of 2016, charging Kenneth D. Temrowski of Temrowski Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services, with failure to maintain accurate books and records, failure to have an escrow agreement in effect at all times, and incompetence in the practice of mortuary science, among other allegations.

Temrowski said he was misled by an attorney whom he trusted. "I had a bad engagement with an attorney that I took the brunt of," he said. "He gave me extremely bad advice. He assured me everything was in order."

The orders, issued by the Michigan Board of Mortuary Science, were signed on April 5 and became effective 30 days later, on May 5.

As a result, two separate stipulations include a one-year suspension of Kenneth Temrowski’s mortuary science license and fines totaling $9,000 ($4,500 for each complaint number) against both Temrowski and the funeral home, to be paid by July 5.

"We will continue to operate our daily business. No money was ever missing, it was simply not deposited in a bona fide escrow account, per state regulations. We fixed it immediately."

According to the two complaints, which were obtained from the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs via the Freedom of Information Act, these actions stem from allegations that from December 2012 through December 2015, the funeral home received more than $2.6 million in prepaid funeral contracts, designated burial space, through an agent as a result of estate planning seminars presented by an attorney. As of Dec. 31, 2015 none of these contracts were fulfilled, however, 48 of them were allegedly refunded for a total of $978,358. Once the contracts were entered into they were allegedly deposited to the attorney’s client trust account.

State regulations state that the $2.6 million was to have been deposited into an authorized escrow account within 30 days. Both the state and Temrowski have stipulated that the facts alleged in the formal complaints are true and violate several sections of the Occupational Code, Prepaid Act and Michigan Administrative Code.
Tattoos — what you need to know

Ink on, ink off — all in a day’s work for artists and physicians

By Hannah Ball
hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

The saying goes — your body is a temple, so why not decorate the walls?

Scores of people follow that philosophy by getting tattoos. According to statisticbrain.com, approximately 14 percent of Americans have at least one tattoo, which is about 45 million. Approximately 38 percent of adults ages 18-40 have at least one tattoo.

Before entering a shop, Christian North, a tattoo artist for four years at Fenton Tattoo and Piercing, said, “They have to know what kind of tattoo they want, the style, like realistic, new school, or traditional.”

Along with style, there are different kinds of tattoos, from simple black ink, to color, to white ink, to glow-in-the-dark, and more recently, sound wave tattoos. According to skin-motion.com, people can get a sound wave tattoo in a certain pattern. When scanned with an app on their smartphone or tablet, it plays the sound.

North said to be familiar with your artist’s work and pick the artist based on the style of tattoo you want. “Everyone specializes in something different,” he said.

For a good tattoo, expect to pay about $100 an hour. Many establishments have a minimum fee. Be wary of places that do tattoos for cheap.

“Do research on the artist and check out who handles the pain better — women or men?” he said. “They do tattoo removal at the center for about 17 years. He said they do tattoo removals every day.

They use PicoSure, a Federal Drug Administration-approved laser technology, that rapidly fires lasers into the skin.

“It’s attracted to pigments and it blows it into tiny little pieces,” Seiger said. “So your body can now take and engulf the pigment and your immune system takes it away. It takes it from a rock under the skin to little pieces of sand so your body can clear it out.”

Girls handle the pain better.”

Christian North
Piercing tattoo artist

Girls are big babies.”

“I’ve seen things spelled wrong, tattoos on the face, people’s ex’s names that they hate, I’ve seen funny pictures,” he said. “They say ‘I was 17 and stupid.’ They have kids and they don’t want to be represented that way, or they got a job.”

Treatments start at $49. Seiger said it takes between four and 10 sessions to get rid of one tattoo. “That’s just the nature of the ink. It’s in there pretty good. In the past, it used to take six to 20 treatments,” he said. He can also surgically cut off the tattoo if it’s small enough.

Dr. Eric Seiger of Skin and Vein Center in Fenton started Freedom Ink, an organization that does free tattoo removal for past gang members who are now committed to a gang-free life.

“I decided I wanted to help give back to the community,” he said. Now, people doing their residencies in dermatology at a local university do these tattoo removals twice a month at the Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation in Detroit.

The procedure hurts, but they do things to help with the pain, like use air conditioning, ice, and occasionally numbing clients. It can take anywhere from one minute to 40 minutes depending on the size of the tattoo.

“We do it every day. All day we’re taking off tattoos. There are a lot of tattoo regrets,” he said. Commonly removed tattoos include past significant others’ names and misspelled words.

“You can use Aquaphor, a gel that helps take care of it while it scabs and heals. You can use medical bandage, that you can wear for a few days. There’s also Saniderm, a breathable medical bandage, that you can wear for a few days.

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OPEN SUNDAY 1-3
12402 WOODHULL LANDING, FENTON
LAKE FENTON
$795,000
181' of frontage on All Sports Lake Fenton. 8890 SF. 4 BDR & 3 1/2 BA. Open floor plan, soaring ceilings and great natural light. 3 car attached garage, large deck and more. This home has it all - fantastic location, large yard and beautiful water frontage.

OPEN SUNDAY 1-3
15525 LONGFELLOW DR, BYRON
MYERS LAKE
$293,900
5850 SF. Open floor plan with beautiful lake views. 2370 SF. 4 BDR & 2 BA. Open floor plan, great natural light and exposed beams. Large master suite, full basement and 2 car attached garage. Nestled on 1 acre. Open house: Sat. 2-4

OPEN SUNDAY 1-3
6302 COOK RD, SWARTZ CREEK
ACREAGE
$499,999
216' of frontage on All Sports Lake Fenton, 5630 SF. 3 BDR & 3 1/2 BA. One of a kind, True log home, 52 acres filled with wildlife and your own private vineyard. Groomed trails for your riding pleasure and 4 out buildings. Peaceful, tranquil and a life style all its own. Exposed log, stone fireplace and hardwood floors are just a few of the features. Open House: Sat. 2-4

OPEN SUNDAY 1-3
2208 ISLAND SHORE DR, FENTON
LAKE FENTON
$1,200,000
Stunning home with over 100' frontage on All Sports Lake Fenton. 3415 SF, 3 BDR & 2 1/2 BA. Scenic ceilings, large kitchen, dining room, sun room and partially finished walkout. Oversized 2 car garage, plus an additional 2+ car garage. Over 1.5 acres of waterfront property!

OPEN SUNDAY 1-3
16486 WHITEHEAD DR, LINDEN
WARWICK HILLS
$449,900
4090 SF. 4 BDR & 3 1/2 BA all on the 1st level of this 2 story Jack Nicklaus Golf Course. Stunning gourmet kitchen with high and finishes, hardwood floors, granite counters, lots of cabinet space and fireplace. Open floor plan, grand entry, natural light, and much more.

OPEN SUNDAY 1-3
9720 BURNING TREE DR, GRAND BLANC
LOBDELL LAKE
$354,999
96 Frontage on All Sports Lobdell Lake. Fantastic ranch home with 2040 SF of finished living space, 2 car attached garage. Open floor plan, hardwood floors throughout and vaulted ceilings. Gorgeous wrap around deck, patio, 2 car garage and more.

OPEN SUNDAY 1-3
1626 PRAIRIE DUNES DR, GRAND BLANC
GRAND RESERVE
$274,999
1650 SF. 2 BDR & 2 BA. Gorgeous kitchen features hardwood floors, pantry, tile back splash, lots of cabinet and counter space. Open floor plan, beautifully decorated, fireplace and great natural light. Spacious master suite, full basement and 1 car attached garage. Enjoy resort style living at Oak Webb's Grand Reserve!

OPEN SUNDAY 1-3
3718 PEPPER CT, HARTLAND
ACREAGE
$224,999
Adorable home on over 1.5 acres. 1872 SF. 3 BDR & 2 BA. Great kitchen, open floor plan with spacious formal dining room and Florida room with great natural light. Living room features beautiful floors and fireplace. Nice deck with pond and more.

OPEN SUNDAY 1-3
10079 GOLFSIDE, GRAND BLANC
ACREAGE
$439,999
Adorable Lake Home on over 1.5 acres. 3420 SF. 3 BDR & 4 1/2 BA. Gorgeous kitchen with island, granite countertops, hardwood floors, breakfast nook and pantry. Full finished walkout basement with bar and stone fireplace. Large deck, paver patio and paver driveway overlooking the pond. 3 car attached garage, large deck, storage shed and fenced yard.

OPEN SUNDAY 1-3
8311 PINE HOLLOW TRL, GRAND BLANC
WOODFIELD
$1,075,000
Stunning home, never occupied, a highly sought after Pine Hollow. 8000 SF of finished living space, 6 BDR & 6 full bathrooms & 3 half bathrooms. Every detail of this home is exquisite, gourmet kitchen, hand crafted cherry cabinets, marble countertops, luxury at every turn.
NAKED
Continued from Page 3A

TV viewers won’t know the outcome until they watch Miller and her male counterpart on the show, debuting this Sunday, May 21 at 9 p.m. She’ll be hosting an Episode-Viewing Party beginning at 8:30 p.m. at Boston’s Restaurant & Sports Bar in Fenton.

“I’m really nervous about how I’ll be portrayed,” admitted Miller. “It’s terrifying.”

But that’s not nearly as scary as shedding clothes for the first time on the show.

“I don’t even like wearing a bathing suit,” she said. “Getting nude was really scary.”

But she found out right away that being nude in the rainforest wasn’t provocative or sexual. It was all about survival.

“Being naked is just so hard,” said Miller.

“It was the number one thing that made the experience so difficult. It’s such a miserable experience. You’re exposed to the sun, bugs, thorns and flesh-eating parasites in a tropical rainforest where the bugs were relentless.”

After the first day of the challenge, you don’t even care that you’re nude, according to Miller.

“Your body goes into full survival mode. You’re hungry and dehydrated. You have to get all your own food and water, make a fire, I hunted, fished and foraged for food. Physically and mentally, it was definitely the hardest thing I’ve ever done.”

It’s truly the epitome of living in the moment, day by day, she said. “Time does not exist; it’s sunup to sundown. You focus all your energy on survival. By the end, you become very animalistic. Your senses become very sharp. You learn to embrace the misery and fall in love with the environment. The human body is so amazing. We can adapt so fast. After awhile, you start to get in the groove and learn what to do.”

It was seven days before she got to eat anything, she said.

“I lost 20 pounds, and I was already thin before. I looked emaciated.”

She admits to having some drama with her TV reality partner. “He was a solo-type person. There was definitely drama and disagreements, but in the end, we had such respect for each other. We will be lifelong friends.”

Miller, the daughter of Bill and Maggie Miller of Argentine Township, graduated from Fenton High School in 2007. She has always been a lover of the outdoors and has been into survival tactics in the past few years.

In her real life, Miller is an environmental educator at For-Mar Nature Preserve in Burton. Later this summer, she’ll be teaching survival in the French Alpine Mountains, at the border of France and Switzerland. She’ll also be working for a survival school, producing survival tutorials on YouTube.

“There’s something about this, overcoming the discomfort. It changed me for the better. It taught me about myself and made me grateful for the tiniest thing.”

Melissa Miller
Fenton High School graduate

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Melissa Miller
Fenton High School graduate

Miller walked around her location the night before the challenge began, and befriended this tail whip scorpion. “He looks scary, but doesn’t bite,” said Miller.

DO CONTESTANTS ON NAKED AND AFRAID GET PAID FOR THEIR MISERY?

According to their contract outlined on Starcasm.net, successful participants each receive a $5,000 Grand Prize.

Valentina Dedivanaj, 13, a student at Fenton Middle School, donated 24 inches of hair to Wigs for Kids, a non-profit organization that provides wigs for children affected by chemotherapy, alopecia, burns and other medical conditions that cause hair loss. This was Valentina’s first hair cut.
WINNER
Continued from Front Page

“We looked it up right on the machine and it’s at the bottom of the ticket,” said Smitty. “It’s pretty exciting. Something like this happens few and far between. I got the chills as soon as I heard.”

Does he have any idea who might have bought the winning ticket? “I have no clue,” said Smitty. “As of yet, it’s unclaimed. You sell tickets all week for the drawing. We’ve got a lot of regulars who play their regular numbers.”

What’s most exciting to Smitty is the thought that someone local may have won the money. He’ll be a winner too, having sold the winning ticket, but it’s not nearly as big a win as it used to be.

Smitty’s Exit 80 will be getting $5,000 from the Michigan Lottery Commission when the winning ticket is claimed. “It used to be a percentage of the win, and now it’s a straight $5,000,” said Smitty. “I’m not going to whine. It’s not about the money for me. Those are the rules and we play by them.”

He admits that he’ll get a lot of business out of having sold a winning ticket. “They’ll be bringing out a banner for my store,” he said. “It’s pretty exciting. Something like this happens few and far between.”

Smitty’s glad his luck came through this time, and he’s excited about finding out the winner. “There’s a lot of excitement in the store,” he said. “People are coming in all the time asking, ‘hey, do you know who it is?’”

SUMMARY
Smitty’s Exit 80 in Fenton sold the winning Michigan Lottery ticket for $4.4 million and is hoping the winner will come forward soon.

HOT LINE
CONTINUED
IT’S INTERESTING HOW you can learn a few scientific facts, or maybe Trump facts, and become an expert. Whereas if you went to a university and learned about a subject, maybe you’d know what you’re talking about.

THE LAST TIME the earth was destroyed, it was by water. A flood. Then we learn that the next time it happens, it will be by fire. Global warming? Getting warmer?

IF YOU NEED to find a home for your chickens, I have room in my own? That’s not the point. It's Fenton Township taking away your rights to do what you want on your own property.

YOU IDIOTS KEEP beating the drum about illegal immigrants killing someone every once in a while, what about all the legal immigrants or Americans killing Americans? That’s probably a couple hundred thousand to one. Why don’t you worry about them?

IT IS FOOLISH to mourn the men who died for this country. Rather we should thank God such men lived.” — George S. Patton

Memorial Day SALE
Sofas • Bedrooms • Mattresses • Recliners

SUMMARY
Smitty’s Exit 80 Sunoco also sells scratch-off instant win lotto games.

Smitty’s Exit 80 Sunoco sold a winning $4.4-million classic lotto ticket on Wednesday, May 17. As of press time, late Friday afternoon, the winner had not yet come forward.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

THE LINDEN CITY COUNCIL will hold a regular meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, May 22 in Council Chambers.

The Fenton City Council will hold a regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, May 22 in Council Chambers.

The Lake Fenton Board of Education will hold a regular meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, May 22 in the Alberta B. Martin board room.

The Holly Village Council will hold a regular meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 23 at the Karl Richter Community Center.

The Fenton Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 23 at the Fenton Township Civic Community Center.

The Holly Village Planning Commission will hold a meeting at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, May 24 at the Karl Richter Community Center.

The North Oakland County Fire Authority (NOCF) will hold a meeting at 3 p.m. on Thursday, May 25.
Renting a car for summer vacation?

Read this before you step up to the rental counter

By Sally Rummel
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Summer is a time for weekend road trips, extended vacations and a sense of adventure. Have you ever thought about renting a vehicle, instead of putting miles on your own, for your summer travel plans? Now is the peak time for car rentals, starting in April and continuing through September. If your own car isn’t up to a long road trip, or you lease your car and need to save on miles driven, you may want to consider using a rental car. Maybe your current vehicle isn’t big enough to carry extended family and gear for a summer camping trip, or you want to try out a fun summer sports car.

If you’re under age 25 and live in Michigan or New York, you’re in luck — state laws require agencies to rent to drivers age 18 and up. However, you can expect to pay extra fees and be restricted in the type of cars that can be rented, especially if you’re aged 18 to 21. Even drivers aged 21 to 24 often have to pay a daily surcharge and some luxury vehicles and SUVs may be off limits.

If you haven’t had a lot of experience in renting cars, do some research first before standing at the rental car counter. Even if you’re making your plans online, you’ll need to know what kind of vehicle to want to rent, whether you need to add additional car insurance and if you’re going to pre-pay your gas tank refill. Those are the questions you’ll be asked when you pick up your car.

Here are some other things to think about before renting a car:

**LOOK BEYOND THE AIRPORT**

Because so many people flying into a particular destination are also looking to rent a car, you may have longer waits and higher rates. Check review sites like Yelp and Google about particular pick-up sites. If you’re traveling during the holidays or your trip is for a wedding or another time-sensitive event, call and ask what steps are needed to guarantee that you’ll have a car waiting for you.

**KNOW WHAT YOUR INSURANCE COVERS**

One of the first questions you will be asked is whether or not you want to buy insurance. The key is to know what your own auto insurance policies cover, then consider your options carefully.

“Our customers who have comprehensive and collision policies — those policies will extend to the temporary use of a rental car,” said Linda Hathaway of Brad Hoffman Insurance in Fenton. “However, the rental car company might come back at you for ‘diminished value’ or ‘loss of use’ fees if you have an accident that pulls that car of the rental fleet for repair.”

The important thing to know is that you want to make these insurance decisions before you’re standing at the counter, under pressure to buy an expensive policy.

“If you rent cars frequently, you can buy an endorsement to add to your own policy,” said Hathaway. “That will be much cheaper than insurance by the day. But if you only rent a car once a year on vacation, it will be cheaper just to buy their insurance.” But contact the rental company in advance for a better deal than standing at the counter, advises AARP.

**USE AN APP FOR THE BEST PRICE**

New apps are designed to find drivers the best prices, while providing companies with more accurate predictions for having the right number of cars. Autoshlash, for example, checks your reservations against new rates, coupons and discounts several times a day. When a better rate pops up, Autoshlash cancels the existing reservation and books a new one.

**DON’T GO FOR THE PRE-PAID FUEL PURCHASE OPTION**

You’ll almost always pay at least slightly more for gas if you prepay it, but there are some times it makes sense to decide on this option at the counter.

If you know you’re going to be pressed for time before a flight, or you’re worried about security, you can opt to pre-pay. Check where your return-car location is compared to nearby gas stations, and that can help guide your decision.

**Emp**

Continued from Page 7A

The food supply would be imperiled as well. What do crops need to grow? With hydroelectric power gone, where would the water come from for many food-growing regions in the country? Our food supplies would dry up and disappear, thus exacerbating the threat.

**Conclusion**

The biggest threat to our society is the melt down of nuclear plants following an EMP. However, there are literally a thousand ways to die when an EMP hits. **Source:** commonsenseadow.com

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**Tri-county Times** Submitted Photo

If you don’t own rent cars, the rental car transaction process can seem a little daunting. It pays to do a little research before you stand at the rental agency counter.

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**Emp**

Continued from Page 7A

Attack. Keeping drinking water clean and separate from human sewage and other contaminants would prove to be humanity’s biggest challenge.

**Access to Water**

Human beings require approximately 2 liters of water per day in order to survive. If we do not get that water, we will die in approximately five days. With regard to an EMP attack, our water supplies are especially vulnerable. The power to distribute water is highly concentrated within the United States.

Only eight municipalities provide 82 percent of the drinking water in the United States. There are multiple technologies, which are used to pump water from the source to its final destination. Some require no electricity, however, most do. And even if your water system was powered by non-electrical means, how would the personnel and staff, who monitors and maintains your water supply, get to work without proper transportation?

**Food**

The food supply would be imperiled as well. What do crops need to grow? With hydroelectric power gone, where would the water come from for many food-growing regions in the country? Our food supplies would dry up and disappear, thus exacerbating the threat.

**Conclusion**

The biggest threat to our society is the melt down of nuclear plants following an EMP. However, there are literally a thousand ways to die when an EMP hits.

**Source:** commonsenseadow.com
‘Sailors wanted’

The Lake Fenton Sailing Club will be kicking off the sailing season on Memorial Day weekend with a “Bring Two to the Lake” brunch on Saturday, May 27 at 11 a.m.

“We’re inviting people to come take a look at our club,” said Susan Franz, membership coordinator of the club and a second generation member.

“Our people don’t even know that we’re here. We’re looking for sail- or row people who have an interest in sailing or racing, even if they don’t own a sailboat,” she said. Where else can you enjoy 350 feet of sandy beach and dunes that are much less expensive than mooring at a marina?”

Where else can you own a sailboat. If they don’t know that we’re looking for sailors, you can let me know by calling me at (810) 618-3283,” sad Franz. “We’ll reserve you a spot.”

By Sally Rummel
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

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Where else can you enjoy 350 feet of sandy beach and dunes that are much less expensive than mooring at a marina?”

While the club won’t be racing on Saturday, May 27, they will hold their first races of the season on Sunday and Monday, May 28 and 29.

There’s also a brunch on the Saturday of Labor Day weekend, to close out the season. “Members will bring a dish to pass and guests can just come and enjoy these special brunches,” said Franz.

Other upcoming events include the MC Class Regatta on June 3 and 4, a weekend of races bringing in boats from other sailing clubs. “We sponsor five to seven races, from 10 to 4 on Saturday and 9 to 12 on Sunday,” said Gerald Fischer, treasurer of the club. “People are welcome to come out and watch.”

Another upcoming event, The One Buck Derby on Sunday, June 25, is a fun race all the way down the lake and back, for the purpose of inviting guests to hitch a ride or race a sailboat. The winner gets $1 and a chance to wear the cool green derby. Guests can enjoy hot dogs and an ice cream social.

The Lake Fenton Sailing Club has been in existence on Lake Fenton since the 1930s and purchased its property on Sonora Drive in 1968. Fischer, 66, has been a member since he was a 20-year-old student at the General Motors Institute (now Kettering University).

“Sailing is a miracle in the sense that it doesn’t use up any resources while still getting you from one point on the lake to another,” said Fischer. “It’s very quiet, so you can hear the wind and the water.”

“If you think you’d like to go for a sailboat ride or join us for fellowship, you can let me know by calling me at (810) 618-3283,” said Franz. “We’ll reserve you a spot.”

Judge Mark McCabe explains youth crime rate

“They are more vulnerable to outside pressure...and their character isn’t as well formed”

By Hannah Ball
hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

If it seems like every issue of the Times carries stories about crimes committed by young people, you are correct.

Young people are more likely to commit crimes than older people.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, homicide and drug-arrest rates peak at age 19, and arrest rates for forcible rape peak at 18. Crimes such as vandalism peak around 16, and arrest rates for forgery, fraud and embezzlement peak in the early 20s. More than half of the offenders the FBI arrests will be taken in by the time they’re 30.

Geneesee County Undersheriff Chris Swanson said young people commit more crimes because they don’t understand the consequences before it’s too late.

“The older we get, the more they become real,” he said.

Why are young people more likely to commit crimes than older people?

Judge Mark McCabe of the Genesee County 67th District Court said there are Michigan Supreme Court cases that indicate as far as younger people, juveniles, their lack of maturity and underdeveloped sense of responsibility leads to recklessness and needless risk taking.

McCabe doesn’t deal with felony cases, and he said he sees defendants of all ages.

“They are more vulnerable to outside pressure, they have limited control over environment, and their character isn’t as well formed,” he said.

According to The New York Times, neuroscientists suggest that the parts of the brain that govern risk and reward are not fully developed until after age 25. Young people are also more likely to be poorer than older people, and poor people are more likely to commit crimes.

As people age, their ties to society and community increase with marriage, they have children, and join the workforce.

Some researchers have found that young offenders usually stop offending in their mid 20s.

The National Justice of Institute found that juveniles who start offending before age 12 are more likely to continue offending into early adulthood, but that minor offenses such as shoplifting and vandalism usually stop before age 18. Other offenses decrease significantly by age 25.

Criminologists at Carnegie Mellon found that for the eight serious crimes the FBI tracks — murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, arson and car theft — people usually commit those crimes for five to 10 years.

These numbers have led people to question whether longer-term prison sentences are appropriate for young people who commit terrible crimes.

“There are U.S. Supreme Court cases which stand for the proposition that children are constitutionally different from adults for sentencing purposes,” he said.

McCabe said in the ‘70s, some jail sentences weren’t even appealable.

“As long as it was done procedurally, then that was nothing that was looked at. That changed in the 1980s,” he said.

Since then, states have sentencing guidelines. A Michigan Supreme Court case, People v. Lockridge, made sentencing guidelines advisory, instead of mandatory.

“There are a lot of issues that always are present in sentences,” he said. The issue of young people receiving long sentences can be one of them.

These longer sentences can cause jails and prisons to house people who are no longer threats to society, especially with the rising age of offenders. The average time served for homicide and non-negligent manslaughter increased threefold from five years in 1981 to 17 years 2010, according to the New York Times, and more than 10 percent of federal and state inmates are serving a life sentence, with 10,000 of them being nonviolent offenders.

Although, McCabe said the victims’ rights have to be taken into account, too.

“They have the right to be heard, too. There’s a balance that is struck normally between victims’ rights and the rights of the defendants. Victims have very strong rights,” he said.
"Snack Shack' reopens this year

Silver Lake beachgoers can buy
sandwiches, snacks and beverages
starting Memorial Day weekend.

Decked out in a new American look with
red, white, and blue colors and new signs, the
Silver Lake Snack Shack is making a come-
back this summer after three years of no use.

Starting on Memorial Day, a local fam-
ily, the Books, will run the shack, selling
snacks, beverages, candy, sandwiches, and
other foods. "It's a shame when people have
to leave because they're hungry and thirsty.
If they leave they might not come back," said Jennifer
Book.

The Books leased the shack from Fenton City after
they talked about it at the end of last year. Book said it was a
shame no one was using it.

"We just decided to give it a
try," she said. "We've been
brining our family out to that
beach ever since we've
lived in Fenton. Our kids
grew up on this beach." She said the city of
Fenton and her husband have both been a big
help with shack.

"My husband, Tony, has been working
very diligently to make sure the shack has
been working and that it's up and running," she said. "It needed a lot of work." Tony re-
habitated the shack by painting it and clean-
ing it out to make it ready for Memorial Day.
"We've cleaned up the bathroom. We've giv-
en it a pretty good facelift," Book said. "It's
just a little shack but it's definitely perfect for
the beach."

The shack will be open from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday, and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday. "If there are more people when we
close, then we definitely will stay open lon-
ger. It just depends," she said.

For the summer holiday weekends the
Snack Shack will stay open the entire week-
end, Friday through Monday. The Snack Shack is cash only.

The beach has also completed a new pro-
fessional disc golf course, adding to the vol-
leyball nets, horseshoe pit, gazebo, and other
attractions. Book said the disc golf course looks great.

The shack will be the main shop for the
disc golf course. They will rent discs and
equipment. "It's going to be a lot of fun," she said. "I think the community will be really
pleased when they see it. It's going to be something really
nice" she said.

They're expecting a big turnout for Memorial Day weekend. "We want to keep
you out there all day. We want you to enjoy the entire experi-
cence," she said.

Book also wanted the com-

munity to know that the beach will be host-
ing the first ever Beach Olympics on Sunday, June 4th, starting at noon. See the SLPR Summer book for more information or to register.

The new rehabilitated Silver Lake Beach Snack Shack is decked out in red, white, and blue colors.

"We need you to enjoy the entire experience!"
Jennifer Book
Silver Lake Beach
Snack Shack owner

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Meet JARROD MONTAGUE

• Former 'Taproot' drummer
• Father of five
• Author

By Sally Rummel
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-9898

Jarrod Montague, 41, of Linden, is enjoying a life as interesting as his name. Married to Stephanie and the father of five kids between the ages of 6 and 11, Montague was best known as the drummer for Taproot from 1997 until 2008. He chose to stop touring because of his growing family and work responsibilities at JLL, a Fortune 500 commercial real estate firm.

How did you get involved in a heavy metal rock band, Taproot, in the first place?
I wanted to be a physician. I started at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor in 1994, after graduating from Linden High School. Through friends in a new band called Taproot, I became a founding member of the group in 1997.

Meanwhile, I graduated from U of M in 1998 with two B.S. degrees in four years. I took the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) and got a good score (29). I decided to get my M.S. in Epidemiology at Michigan State University before applying to med school.

By the time I finished the first year of my Master’s, Taproot had built a strong fan base and a lot of buzz in the heavy metal culture. We signed with Atlantic Records in 1999, and toured the U.S., Europe and Japan.

How did you get involved with business partners for whom I’m responsible. I like having a corporate job that provides a steady income, allows me to see my family every day that I’m not traveling for work. I have time to support my church by being involved in various missions and I’m also able to give to a number of charities that I’m passionate about.

I was recently surprised with the Champion of Excellence Award from JLL, given to just a handful of the 65,000 employees. It’s essentially a lifetime achievement award. My entire family was there to see me get the award, and then JLL whisked our family off for a resort vacation. It was one of the most amazing experiences of my life and cemented my loyalty to JLL.

Q. What is the most important thing in your life, and how does your daily life reflect that?
My faith, followed by my family and friends. I pray in the car every morning on my way to work instead of listening to music or news. I have seen very tangible and amazing results from the power of prayer and am guided by the Holy Spirit every single day.

Q. What's your favorite part about living in Linden?
I love the sense of community. Many of my closest friends grew up and still live in Linden. I love to go church, the Little League games, the gas station or a restaurant and bumping into friends. I love the Bridge Street Exchange store and think it's a model for what businesses in Linden could aspire to be.

Q. Do you still drum for fun, or play with a band in your leisure time?
I have five drum kits set up in my basement so my kids and I play often. I play drums in the Praise Band at Linden Presbyterian Church and monthly, I play drums at 224 Community Church in Brighton. I’m in a rock band called WestFall and we play at local clubs on weekends. I also occasionally play in two other bands for special events: Truancy and Love Gunz.

Q. I understand that you’re writing a book. What’s it about?
My book is called “True Rockstars: 12 Guiding Principals for Success and Happiness.” The book reads as an autobiography with action themes one can use in their own life. I’m targeting a release at the end of summer. I’ve had a few publishers interested but am leaning toward self-publishing.

Q. What is something about you that most people likely don’t know?
I don’t talk about it much but I was class president all four years in high school and was Linden’s valedictorian in 1994. I’m published in multiple medical journals for some research I did while in college. I’m also an elder at my church where I write and deliver a couple sermons a year.

“By the time I finished my Master’s, Taproot had built a strong fan base and a lot of buzz in the heavy metal culture. We signed with Atlantic Records in 1999, and toured the U.S., Europe and Japan.”

Jarrod Montague
Founding member and former drummer of Taproot

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Eagles sweep Gladiators in battle of ranked teams

By David Troppens
droppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

The Holly varsity girls tennis team is used to winning regional titles. However, the fourth-ranked in Division 2 Holly Bronchos earned one in the most impressive style possible on Thursday.

The Bronchos captured the regional championship in all eight flights, earning a perfect team score of 32 points at the regional hosted by Holly High School. North Farmington finished second with 19 team points while Fenton finished in a tie for ninth with one team point.

At press time it was still uncertain if the Holly girls had ever won all the regional flights at a regional meet before Thursday. It was the first since prep tennis moved to the eight-flight format versus the seven-flight format. Holly varsity girls and boys tennis coach Will Sophica said the boys did it in 2005 during his freshman year, and recalled the girls coming within one match point from doing it in 2009.

“It was history making, but that doesn’t happen if our players don’t buy into team goals versus personal goals,” Sophica said. “You are not going to win eight flights unless everyone is in it for the same reasons. We took great steps toward becoming a team.”

Holly’s Taylor Barrett earned the designa-
See BRONCHOS on 19A

Lake Fenton senior Natalie Gallamore will swim at Division 1 University of Massachusetts Amherst in the fall.

LF’s Gallamore headed to U-Mass to swim

By David Troppens
droppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Natalie Gallamore wasn’t the world’s most enthusiastic swimmer at first. In fact, the Lake Fenton senior hated it.

“I broke my leg in the first grade so I had to strengthen it back up,” Gallamore said. “I started swimming and I hated it.

“But then we became members of Spring Meadows Country Club and I saw the swim team. I saw them winning ribbons and I thought that was cool. I tried it and have stuck with it ever since.”

Now, swimming is her passion, and that passion will continue when she goes to the University of Massachusetts Amherst as a member of the school’s Division 1 women’s swim program.

“It means the world to me,” Gallamore said. “For as long as I can remember, I wanted to swim Division 1 and do it at a program I love. When I finally committed, I felt the weight lift off my shoulders, and with every day I get so much more excited.”

Her final two choices were Oakland University or U-Mass.

“I had my recruiting trip and I committed that Thursday,” Gallamore said. “I knew as soon as I got back home I wanted to go back there.”

CONTINUED ONLINE AT TCTIMES.COM
The Blue Devils won their ninth and gled. outside the league the young team struggled, the Blue Devils always won, but dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789 By David Troppens Lake Fenton softball sweeps Birch Run jumped to an early lead, scoring 6:59 into the contest. The跳 to an early lead, scoring 6:59 into the contest. The 1-0 for most of the rest of the first half. Holly had the wind at its back and had most of the quality scoring chances in the first 40 minutes. However, it was Fenton who scored both goals during the first half. The second came with 4:07 remaining before intermission when Isaacsion had her second assist of the contest. This one came on a thru pass to Katelyn Britton who scored. Fenton went into the half up 2-0. On Wednesday, Fenton jumped to an early lead, scoring 6:59 into the contest. The goal came when Eryn Isaacsion assisted a goal by Lauren Murphy. Murphy took a pass from Isaacsion and then dribbled by Holly's keeper Lalli Valdivinos and scored the goal. The contest remained 1-0 for most of the rest of the first half. Holly had the wind at its back and had most of the quality scoring chances in the first 40 minutes. However, it was Fenton who scored both goals during the first half. The second came with 4:07 remaining before intermission when Isaacsion had her second assist of the contest. This one came on a thru pass to Katelyn Britton who scored. Fenton went into the half up 2-0.